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COMMUNICATION

The Philippine "Situado" from the Treasury of New Spain

REFERRING to the previous communications to the AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW on the above subject, viz., one by Professor Edward Gaylord Bourne (X. 459-461) and one by me (X. 929-932), I wish now to call attention to the subsequent publication in *The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898*, XXVII., of the 1637 *Memorial* of Juan Grau y Monfalcón, and to acquiesce in Professor Bourne's judgment that the data as to the Philippine budget in this document entirely prove the case for the contention that the subsidy from the treasury of Mexico to that of the Philippines was in net cash, and amounted to about a quarter of a million pesos annually. At the time of my previous communication, I had never had a chance to see the Grau y Monfalcón memorial, which Professor Bourne had consulted in *Collección de Documentos Inéditos del Archivo de Indias, América y Oceanía* (Madrid, 1866). Grau y Monfalcón's statements are not only clear enough, but the figures he adduces are conclusive on the particular points which were under discussion in the communications referred to above. The citations from the new and first English version of this memorial which are especially pertinent are to be found on pages 121 and 136 to 141 of volume XXVII. of *The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898*. This and the preceding two volumes also contain other data corroborative as to the amount of the subsidy, the manner of its calculation and payment, etc.

It is still true, however, that we lack evidence of the payment of this subsidy every year, especially throughout the eighteenth century. The citations from various authorities down to the early part of the nineteenth century, made by Professor Bourne in his communication in question, create very much more than the presumption that the subsidy became a recognized feature and that it acquired a fixed value of 250,000 pesos annually. Doubtless, consultation of the budgets of Mexico and the Philippine Islands, so far as they are available, would be necessary to prove the practice to have been constant up to the earliest years of the nineteenth century. There may have been, and probably were, lapses in the practice, as there were interruptions to the rule of annual communication by the trading galleons between Mexico and the Philippines.

I only ventured in my previous communication to question the definiteness of our knowledge as to the subsidy's being paid in the manner and amount ordinarily accepted by Philippine historians as being established fact. Grau y Monfalcón settles that question, at least for the first half of the seventeenth century. The considerations which I raised as regarding Spanish settlements and attempts at conquest in the Mo-

lucas and the Orient, using the Philippines as the base and the source of equipment and maintenance, are given yet more point by the Grau y Monfalcón memorial. He makes out the annual cost for merely the maintenance of such settlements to be more than the subsidy from Mexico, let alone the cost in money, labor, and timber, of various expensive expeditions then quite recent. Of course, any fair balancing of accounts as between Spain and the Philippines must take these things into account.

JAMES A. LEROY.

DURANGO, MEXICO, January 23, 1906.